

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, TD

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA - LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO
PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2589 AND PREVIOUS

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY
TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER,

I RECALL WITH PLEASURE OUR MEETING HERE IN WASHINGTON
IN JUNE, AND I HOPE THAT EVENTS HAVE GONE WELL FOR YOU
SINCE THEN. I AM WRITING TO YOU AT THIS TIME BECAUSE
OF MY CONCERN ABOUT THE COMING UNITED NATIONS DEBATE
ON KOREA. I KNOW THAT THE EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED
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THIS MATTER WITH YOUR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND

I AM AWARE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S TENTATIVE POSITION.
I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KOREAN
QUESTION REQUIRES THAT I COMMUNICATE WITH YOU PERSONALLY.

THE KOREAN ITEM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ON THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA THIS YEAR AS FAR AS THE
UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED. THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE
DEBATE WILL BE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND
SECURITY OF THE PENINSULA. I RECOGNIZE THAT MANY UN
MEMBERS BELIEVE - AND THE UNITED STATES AGREES - THAT
IT IS TIME TO TERMINATE THE UN COMMAND. HOWEVER, THE
UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL TO TERMINATE
THE COMMAND WHICH FAILS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUING
VALIDITY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OF
SUCH IMPORTANCE IN KEEPING THE PEACE ON THE KOREAN
PENINSULA. THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN
CONTINUED STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THE INTEREST OF THE
WORLD COMMUNITY IN THIS STABILITY MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY THAT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKE RESPONSIBLE
ACTION IN THIS DEBATE.

THE RESOLUTION WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED IN
COSPONSORING IS DESIGNED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PREVIOUS
UN DECISIONS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AND TO THE NEEDS FOR
MAINTAINING PEACE ON THE PENINSULA. IT PROVIDES FOR
TERMINATION OF THE UN COMMAND. IT DOES THIS WITHOUT
UPSETTING THE PRINCIPAL MECHANISM FOR MAINTENANCE OF
PEACE IN KOREA, THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OF 1953, BECAUSE
IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE UN COMMAND, AS SIGNATORY TO THE
ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, CAN BE REPLACED ONLY WHEN A SUB-
STITUTE MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE IS AGREED
BY ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE RESOLUTION RESPONDS
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ENDORSEMENT IN THE CONSENSUS
RESOLUTION OF 1973, REAFFIRMED LAST YEAR, OF TALKS BETWEEN
SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA BY CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE BETWEEN
ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH THE ARMISTICE WHICH IN-
CLUDES SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT FORESEES A CONFERENCE
WHICH WOULD FIRST PROVIDE NEW MECHANISMS FOR MAINTAINING
THE ARMISTICE BUT WHICH COULD THEN GO ON TO CONSIDER
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MORE LASTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE
PENINSULA.

THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF NORTH KOREA DOES
NOT RESPOND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PREVIOUS RESOLU-
TIONS BECAUSE IT CALLS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN
THE "REAL PARTIES" WHICH NORTH KOREA IDENTIFIES AS
THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA, EXCLUDING SOUTH KOREA

WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL PARTY TO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. IT
CALLS FOR REMOVING THE UN COMMAND WITHOUT ANY PROVISION

FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE MECHANISM WHILE DISCUS-
SIONS OF A "PEACE AGREEMENT" PROCEED. THE RESOLUTION
CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS "UNDER THE UN
FLAG" WHICH NORTH KOREA MAKES CLEAR ARE U.S. TROOPS
IN KOREA. THESE TROOPS ARE IN KOREA UNDER A U.S.-ROK
BILATERAL AGREEMENT AT THE INVITATION OF THE ROK.
NORTH KOREA, I NOTE, MAINTAINS TREATIES OF MUTUAL DE-
FENSE WITH BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC.

THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY
ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IS BLATANTLY ONE-SIDED IN
IGNORING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND INTERFERES IN AN
IMPORTANT U.S. SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ROK. BE-
CAUSE OF THE VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS DESCRIBED
ABOVE AND OUR CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, I HOPE
YOU WILL INSTRUCT YOUR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK TO
VOTE AGAINST THIS RESOLUTION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THE NEXT TIME YOU COME
TO THE UNITED STATES.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

HENRY A. KISSINGER

END TEXT.

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